

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint, comprising:

a shaft body:

a shaft joint including an engagement groove with which the shaft body is engaged, a shaft joint body with two bores facing the engagement groove, and a locking body press-fitted into one of the bores; and

a coupling shaft for coupling the shaft body and the shaft joint by being inserted into the bores and locked with the locking body,

the shaft joint further including:

a regulating tongue for regulating movement of the shaft body;

a supported portion extending from ~~the regulating tongue~~ a curved portion of a plate body  
and supported between the locking body and the shaft joint body; and

a plate body having a projection projecting from the supported portion,

wherein at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body has a recessed portion into which the projection is fitted.

2. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 1, wherein the projection has hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

3. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is made of spring steel with hardness higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body.

4. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 3, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

5. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is formed of a material with hardness not higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body, and the hardness of the projection is made higher than hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying surface treatment.

6. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 5, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

7. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 2, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

8. (Original) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to Claim 1, wherein the projection is formed by providing a through bore of the supported portion with kerfs and bending a partial piece between the kerfs.

9. (New) The coupling structure of a shaft body and a shaft joint according to claim 2, wherein the projection is formed of a material having a first hardness less than or equal to a hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body increased to a second hardness greater than the hardness of at least one of the shaft joint body and the locking body by applying a surface treatment.